

Action

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USIA

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KMR

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 51, September 19, 11 a.m.

FILE

Reference: DEPCIRTEL 475.

Recent news coverage given Cuban situation concrete and extensive despite preoccupation Brazil domestic political crisis. With exception leftist/nationalist ULTIMA HORA, all general circulation Sao Paulo dailies condemn Castro's betrayal of revolution, current Communist regime in Cuba and Soviet military assistance, see Cuba as growing threat to hemisphere and are sympathetic to US, positions varying from hands-off policy to O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO which foresees possible necessity of US-backed invasion. General agreement that 1) Soviet troops mean regime fearful of own troops and a domestic uprising; 2) nations were right in excluding Cuba from LAFTA; 3) Kennedy's statements were correct and needed; 4) US could and should act when and if Cuba becomes threat to hemisphere. Several editorialists say Brazil policy under Quadros and at Punta del Este has strengthened Fidel, and that this policy continues. State officials are too occupied with domestic politics to give much attention international affairs, but most think well of US and probably accept general newspaper side.

While difficult measure public opinion, in our judgment Soviet military aid has increased awareness of Communist threat to Brazil, and public approves President's stated position.

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